

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 16 of 1889.]

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS
FOR THE
Week ending the 20th April 1889.

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ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	" Kasipore Nibási "	... Kasipore, Burrisal ...	30	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	" Ahammadí "	... Tangail, Mymensingh	450	
3	" Ave Maria "	... Calcutta	.....
4	" Divákar "	... Ditto	.....
5	" Gaura Duta "	... Maldah	.....
6	" Grambási "	... Uluberia	800	
7	" Purva Bangabási "	... Noakholly	.....
8	" Purva Darpan "	... Chittagong	700	
9	" Uttara Banga Hitaishi "	... Mahiganj, Rungpore...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
10	" Arya Darpan "	... Calcutta	102	5th ditto.
11	" Bangabási "	... Ditto	20,000	13th ditto.
12	" Burdwán Sanjibání "	... Burdwán	302	9th ditto.
13	" Chandra Vilásh "	... Berhampore	250	
14	" Chárvártá "	... Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	8th ditto.
15	" Chattal Gazette "	... Chittagong	800	
16	" Dacca Prakásh "	... Dacca	1,200	14th ditto.
17	" Education Gazette "	... Hooghly	885	12th ditto.
18	" Faridpur Hitaishini "	... Faridpur	.....	16th ditto.
19	" Garib "	... Dacca	3,000	
20	" Gaurab "	... Ditto	.....
21	" Hindu Ranjiká "	... Beauleah, Rajshahye...	300	
22	" Jagatbási "	... Calcutta	750	
23	" Murshidábád Patriká "	... Berhampore	508	
24	" Murshidábád Pratinidhi "	... Ditto	350	
25	" Navavibhákar Sádháraní "	... Calcutta	600	15th ditto.
26	" Prajá Bandhu "	... Chandernagore	995	12th ditto.
27	" Pratikár "	... Berhampore	600	
28	" Rungpore Dik Prakásh "	... Kakinía, Rungpore	205	
29	" Sahachar "	... Calcutta	500	10th ditto.
30	" Samaya "	... Ditto	3,806	12th ditto.
31	" Sanjivani "	... Ditto	4,000	13th ditto.
32	" Sansodhini "	... Chittagong	800	
33	" Santi "	... Calcutta	3,722	10th ditto.
34	" Saráswat Patra "	... Dacca	300	
35	" Som Prakásh "	... Calcutta	1,000	15th ditto.
36	" Srimanta Saudagár "	... Ditto	.....
37	" Sulabha Samáchár o Kusadaha "	... Ditto	800	12th ditto.
38	" Surabhi o Patáka "	... Ditto	700	11th ditto.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<i>Daily.</i>				
39	" Dainik o Samáchár Chandriká "	Calcutta	1,500	10th, 11th, & 15th April 1889.
40	" Samvád Prabhákar "	Ditto	800	11th & 13th to 17th ditto.
41	" Samvád Purnachandrodaya "	Ditto	300	10th to 16th ditto.
42	" Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká "	Ditto	500	
<i>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</i>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	" Dacca Gazette "	Dacca	.....	15th April 1889.
<i>HINDI.</i>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
44	" Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Sámachár Patrika."	Darjeeling	20	
45	" Kshtriya Pratiká "	Patna	200	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
46	" Aryávarta "	Calcutta	1,500	
47	" Behar Bandhu "	Bankipore	.....
48	" Bhárat Mitra "	Calcutta	1,853	11th ditto.
49	" Sár Sudhánidhi "	Ditto	500	15th ditto.
50	" Uchit Baktá "	Ditto	4,500	
51	" Hindi Samáchár "	Bhagulpore	1,000	
<i>PERSIAN.</i>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
52	" Jám-Jahán-numá "	Calcutta	250	12th ditto.
<i>URDU.</i>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
53	" Aftal Alum Arrah "	Arrah	300	
54	" Akhbar Tusdiq-i-Hind "	Calcutta	....
55	" Anis "	Patna	.....
56	" Gauhur "	Calcutta	196	
57	" Sharaf-ul-Akbar "	Behar	150	
58	" Al Punch "	Bankipore	.....
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
59	" Akhbar-i-darusaltanat "	Calcutta	340	7th & 14th April 1889.
<i>Daily.</i>				
60	" Urdu Guide "	Calcutta	212	
<i>URIYA.</i>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
61	" Asha "	Cuttack	.....
62	" Taraka and Subhavártá "	Ditto	.....
63	" Pradíp "	Ditto	.....
64	" Samyabadi "	Ditto	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
65	" Utkal Dípiká "	Cuttack	444	33rd & 30th March 1889.
66	" Balasore Samvad Váhika "	Balasore	205	21st & 28th ditto.
67	" Urya and Navasamvád "	Ditto	600	20th & 27th ditto.
<i>PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.</i>				
<i>BENGALI.</i>				
68	" Silchar "	Silchar	500	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
69	" Paridarshak "	Sylhet	450	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Surabhi o Patáká*, of the 11th April, cannot agree with the *Englishman* newspaper in thinking that the occupation of Tibet.

ascendency in Tibet, and will also remove all chances of future hostilities with China. It would be most impolitic for the Government to cross the Indian frontier and enter into Tibet.

2. The *Sulabh Samáchár o Kushdaha*, of the 12th April, says that all hope of a treaty with Sikkim has disappeared. The Chinese Amban has expressed

The Tibetan difficulty. his unwillingness to sign the treaty drawn up by the English Government. The Lamas of Tibet do not care for the English, and all the efforts of Mr. Hart, the Chinese envoy, to bring about a satisfactory settlement, have been in vain. Heaven alone knows how this matter will end! Government has allotted a large sum in the recent budget for war expenses. England's policy of free trade is the root of all mischief. Burma has fallen a victim to this policy, and this policy will also be the ruin of Tibet and Sikkim. England wants to make money by extending its trade, and is spending Indian money and Indian lives for that purpose. Nice policy indeed!

3. The same paper says that the troops sent against the Lushais are

The Lushai expedition. burning their villages and the food-grains stored up by them in winter. Thus scarcity of food will kill those who will escape English guns and bayonets. The weak and the uncivilized are easily carried away by anger, but it is extremely cruel for the Christian British Government to treat the poor Lushais in this manner.

4. The *Bangabástí*, of the 13th April, says that Russia has greatly

Russia in Central Asia. benefited by the possession of the Nadiri fort, situated on the border of Persian-Turkistan, and recently ceded to her by Persia. The Nadiri fort is the key to the road leading from the Caspian Sea to Sarakhs. General Komaroff and General Rosenbach are busily engaged in inspecting with a large army Kerki, Chardjui, and other places, which have been recently taken by Russia from Amir Abdur Rahman. Russian soldiers have been stationed on the Afghan frontier, and the Nadiri fort is in Russia's hand. All this bodes no good. They must be fools who say that Russia has no intention of invading India.

5. The *Sanjívaní*, of the 13th April, says that the negotiations with

The Tibet question. the Tibetans for a satisfactory settlement of the Tibetan difficulty having failed, Government has ordered its troops to occupy the Chumbi Valley. Government apparently thinks that its occupation of the Chumbi Valley will bring the Tibetans to terms. But it will not, it seems, be possible for Government to occupy the valley so easily as it hopes to do. Tibet can not have assumed such a persistently hostile attitude towards the English Government without having assurances of Chinese support to rely upon.

Again, the Russians are as much desirous as the English of establishing trade relations with Tibet, and they are steadily advancing towards Lhassa for that purpose. The plateau of Tibet will probably be the first meeting ground of England and Russia in Asia.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

6. A correspondent of the *Cháruvártá*, of the 8th April, says that the

Scarcity of water at Iswargunge, in Mymensingh.

drying up of the tank excavated last year at Iswargunge by Bisweswari Devi Chowdhurani, the local zemindar, has resulted in great

SURABHI O PATAKA,
April 11th, 1889.

SULABH SAMACHAR O
KUSHDAHA,
April 12th, 1889.

SULABH SAMACHAR O
KUSHDAHA.

BANGABASTI,
April 13th, 1889.

SANJIVANI,
April 13th, 1889.

CHARUVARTA,
April 8th, 1889.

scarcity of water at that place, and the little water that is still in the tank is polluted by people washing their horses and cattle in it. The local police ought to put a stop to this practice in the interests of the people.

PRAJA BANDHU,
April 12th, 1889.

7. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 12th April, says that the English

are a nation of traders. Perhaps no other

Sale of liquor at night in Cal- Government is so greedy as the English Gov- cutta. ernment. Englishmen can lay down their

lives for money, and they can take other men's lives without scruple if money can be had by so doing. A generous Government is moved by the distress of its subjects, but the English Government remains stubbornly indifferent to the distress of its subjects, and seeks only to take all that their subjects have. Those who are living under English rule in this nineteenth century are experiencing the horrors of Pluto's rule on earth.

It is sure that the greed of the English Government will not allow it to stop the sale of liquor altogether. But it can put a stop to the sale of liquor at night, a practice which is carried on by the keepers of all grog-shops in Calcutta, with the connivance of police officers whom they bribe. Such sale of liquor is prohibited by laws of Government's own making, and can be easily stopped. The sale of liquor at night is possible because the duty of seeing that this is not done rests with a class of police officers who are not above the temptation of small bribes. Let Government appoint Inspectors on higher salaries to put a stop to the practice, and let the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of the Calcutta Police go about in disguise and see how these Inspectors do their work.

SULABH SAMACHAR
O KUSHDAHA,
April 12th, 1889.

Crocodiles in the Ichamati river.

of the ravages of crocodiles in the Ichamati river near Bongong, in the 24-Pergunnahs.

On the 24th Chaitra last, a Mahomedan woman of Jayapur, a village on the Ichamati, opposite to Bongong, was taken away by a crocodile. The Deputy Magistrate of Bongong has after this sad occurrence issued orders for the erection of fences around all the bathing ghâts in Bongong. But the order is clearly insufficient. The Deputy Magistrate should direct the police to see that all the bathing ghâts on the Ichamati within the Bongong sub-division are protected by fence works.

BANGABASI,
April 13th, 1889.

Thefts at Santoshpore near Baraset in the district of 24-Pergunnahs.

9. A correspondent of the *Bangabâsi* says that thefts have, within the last fortnight, increased at Santoshpore, a village situated near Baraset, in the 24-Pergunnahs district, and that the Sub-Inspector of

the Baraset thana ought to look sharp.

SANJIVANI,
April 13th, 1889.

A case of daring outrage.

10. The *Sanjivani*, of the 13th April, says that of late an inhabitant of the Satkhira sub-division was coming home with his young widowed sister. On the road some *badmashes* forcibly carried the girl off for an immoral purpose. After a careful search, extending over three or four days, the girl has been discovered and two of the *badmashes* have been arrested. It is a disgrace to the police that such oppression should be committed on women in broad daylight. It looks like a return to the dark days of Mogul misrule. Exemplary punishment should be inflicted upon these *badmashes* with a view of suppressing these cases of inhuman outrage.

SANJIVANI,

Dacoities in the Jhenidah sub-division of the Jessorâ district.

11. A correspondent of the same paper reports the following cases of dacoity committed within the last two years in the Jhenidah sub-division of the Jessorâ district:—

1. At the house of Nimai Chand Karikar of Narayanpur.
2. At the house of a Vaishnavi of Gilapole.
3. At the house of Jadu Nath Chatterji of Kumrâbera.

4. At the cutcherry of Baboo Nabin Chandra Banerji of Sankaridaha.

5. At the house of Umesh Chandra Chakravarti of Chandpur.

6. At the house of a Karmakar of Bankira.

7. At the house of Hari Charan Ghosh of Bishaikhali.

8. At the house of Kailas Chandra Karmakar of Bhaturia.

Eight cases of dacoity within two years, and not a single dacoit caught by the police ! It is impossible to conceive of greater police inefficiency than this.

(c)—*Jails.*

12. Referring to the ill-treatment which Captain Hearsey received at the hands of Dr. Hall, the Superintendent of the Naini Jail, the *Chárvártá*, of the 8th

Jail inspection. April, observes that :—

Convicts are invariably ill-treated by Jail Superintendents. They are allowed insufficient food, and some of the corrupt Jail Superintendents make money by depriving the poor convicts of their proper rations; witness the Jail Superintendent of Madras, who made about 40 thousand rupees in 13 years by this unfair means. The authorities are therefore requested to empower the members of the District Boards to inspect jails within their respective districts once a month and to report on them. If this is done the highhandedness of jail officials will greatly diminish.

CHARUVARTA,
April 8th, 1889.

(d)—*Education.*

13. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 9th April, says that Bengali

boys are generally of a weak physique, and Text-books for the Upper and Lower Primary Examinations. the fixing of too many books for the higher and lower primary examinations has

the effect of weakening them still further. They are spurred on to the study of a large number of books by the prospect of scholarships. But the health of many of them breaks down permanently under this heavy pressure. It is boys of 10 or 11 years of age who present themselves for the lower primary examination and they have to pass an examination in zeminary accounts, in mental arithmetic, in hygiene, in the Bodhodaya, in handwriting, reading, &c. They are taught sums which it would greatly puzzle the students of the higher classes of the Entrance schools to work out. The Director of Public Instruction now selects text-books for these examinations with the assistance of the Inspectors. They are all very clever and learned men no doubt, but selections of text-books made by them are producing great mischief. The District Boards have been entrusted with the charge of primary education, and it would be well to entrust them also with the selection of text-books.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 9th, 1889.

14. A correspondent of the *Grámbási*, of the 13th April, has heard a charge of gross immorality against the Sub-Inspector of Schools, Uluberia.

GRAMBASI,
April 13th, 1889.

15. The *Dainik o Samachár Chandriká*, of the 15th April, praises Baboo Ashutosh Mukherji as a member of the Syndicate of the Calcutta University.

DAINIK O SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 15th, 1889.

Baboo Ashutosh Mukherji's speech in support of Mr. Tawney's candidature for the Registrarship of the Calcutta University, and observes that Baboo Ashutosh, though young in years, has the knowledge and wisdom of age, and has already justified his election as a member of the Syndicate. That Mr. Tawney was not elected for the Syndicate is because it was known that he would soon come in for the Registrarship.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

CHARUVARTA,
April 8th, 1889.

16. The *Chárvártá*, of the 8th April, takes exception to the rules issued by the Mymensingh Sudder Local Board for the guidance of the midwives employed by it. Midwives and the Mymensingh Sudder Local Board.

The Board's 6th rule will not give public satisfaction. The number of men in the town exempted from the payment of municipal taxes being very small, the benefit to be derived from this rule will not be worth having. The benefit should be extended to all who pay municipal taxes on the lowest scale. The expression "well-to-do people" in rule 7 requires to be clearly defined.

Rule 8 is more of the nature of an advice than of a rule.

Rule 9 does not define "middle-class people."

The fees of Rs. 8 and Rs. 4 prescribed in rule 10 seem to be excessive.

Rule 13 permits the midwife to absent herself from the town for seven days. This is too long a time. The Board should reconsider the rules.

SAHACHAR,
April 10th, 1889.

17. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th April, says that it is a serious defect in the Bengali character that their enthusiasm in any matter disappears with the wearing away of its novelty. Really able men at first

entered into the municipalities and began to do municipal work in the style and spirit of men convinced of the necessity of laying aside private animosities and uniting in the interest of the country. And the management of municipal affairs in this spirit extorted praise even from men of the stamp of Sir Rivers Thompson. But Municipal Commissioners all over the country are now divided into parties. It is said that there should be parties in municipalities, as there are parties in the British Parliament. But this is a mistake. There are parties in Parliament because there is a Ministry to fight for. But there is nothing to fight for in a municipality except the public interest. And the public interest will suffer grievously if party spirit is indulged in in a municipality with reference to any but that interest. And precisely such a result is met with within the Serampore municipality, where Government has been asked to appoint a Chairman. Municipal Chairmen secure the allegiance of some Commissioners by some means or other, and these Commissioners help the Chairmen to do anything they like. And a poll-tax in lieu of the house-tax has been in this way imposed within the Mozufferpore Municipality. Again, the Commissioners of the Baraset Municipality have doubled the rate of municipal taxation. Englishmen say that natives are apt to abuse any power with which they are entrusted, and the action of the municipalities named above goes far to prove the truth of this observation. Lord Lansdowne has declared himself at Lucknow in favour of Self-Government. The majority of Magistrates are also friendly to it. If Self-Government therefore proves a failure, the failure will be owing to the natives themselves.

SÁNTI,
April 10th, 1889.

18. Referring to the recent proceedings of the Commissioners of the Serampore Municipality, in connection with the election of a Chairman, the *Sánti*, of the 10th April, does not join with its contemporaries in expressing regret for what has happened. The chief object of Local Self-Government is to create party-spirit, and Local Self-Government cannot succeed where party-spirit does not spring up. People who have carefully watched the progress of political institutions in England will find nothing to complain of in the proceedings of the Commissioners of the Serampore Municipality. Party-spirit must increase with the progress of Local Self-Government in India.

19. The *Bangabasi*, of the 13th April, says that mustard-oil is now

The sale of adulterated mustard-oil. largely adulterated with oil extracted from the in Calcutta. *Suarguja* seed. Medical men say that this *Suarguja* oil is injurious to health and that its use produces diseases of the kidney and especially diabetes. Government ought to appoint a Committee consisting of competent medical men to inquire into the properties of *Suarguja* oil, and if those properties are found to be deleterious, it ought to prohibit the sale of this oil or of any oil which contains it.

BANGABASI,
April 13th 1889.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

20. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 14th April, says that it has repeatedly shown that a railway line from Dacca to

A railway from Dacca to Goalundo Goalundo (Aricha) will be very profitable. The distance between Dacca and Aricha being 44 miles, the cost of constructing a railway line between those places will be as follows:—

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 14th, 1889.

	Rs.
Cost of construction at Rs. 75,000 per mile ...	33,00,000
Cost of constructing a bridge over the Dhaleswari	32,00,000
Total	65,00,000

The annual expenditure will be as follows:—

Interest on the above sum at the rate of 3½ per cent	... 2,27,500
Annual expenditure ... ... ...	... 1,72,500
Total	4,00,000

The scale of expenditure has been taken from Government's Report on Railways. The probable income can also be ascertained from the scales given in that report. In 1886-87, there was an income of Rs. 19,34,753 from passenger traffic on the Eastern Bengal Railway line, whose length is 152 miles; and judged by this standard there ought to be an income of Rs. 5,60,032 from passenger traffic on the proposed line of 44 miles. The sources of income are indicated below.

The following is the statement of the quantity of jute grown in the different districts of Bengal:—

	Mds.
Mymensingh ...	... 56,25,000
Dacca ...	... 49,72,500
Furreedpore ...	... 26,77,500

The quantities of jute exported from each of these districts are as follows:—

	Mds.
Dacca ...	... 27,83,436
Mymensingh ...	... 7,67,536
Furreedpore ...	... 35,21,983

Of this quantity, the quantity which was exported by railway is as follows:—

	Mds.
Furreedpore ...	... 29,18,228
Dacca ...	... 6,03340
Mymensingh ...	... 2,50,804

This shows that on account of facilities of railway communication in Furreedpore so much as 29 lakh maunds of jute out of its whole export of 3,521,983 maunds went by railway, and it is not therefore unreasonable to hope that, if the proposed line is constructed, so much as one crore maunds of jute out of the total produce of one crore and 6 lakh maunds in Dacea and Mymensingh together will go by the proposed line. But even if only the quantity now exported from those two districts, namely, 85,50,972 maunds of jute are exported by that route and the same quantity of goods on the lowest calculation is supposed to be imported by that line, the income from the traffic of 70 lakh maunds of goods will amount to—

	Rs.
For 44 miles at 6 pies per mile ...	... 8,02,083
Add to this the income from passenger traffic ...	... 5,60,032
	<hr/>
Total	... 13,62,115
Deduct annual expenditure ...	... 4,00,000
	<hr/>
Balance	... 9,62,115

This leaves a profit of 9,62,115 rupees.

It will be well if the Dacca Railway is connected with the Assam and Chittagong Railway, and such a connection can be easily effected by connecting either the Sripur or the Tetulia station on the Dacca Railway with the station marked as Sahaji on the plan of the proposed Assam and Chittagong line. The goods of Assam, Sylhet, Cachar and Tipperah will, in that case, go by railway at a cheaper cost. The distance between Sahaji and Chittagong is 175 miles, but the distance between Sahaji and Goalundo *via* Dacca will not be more than 150 miles. Thus communication between Assam and Calcutta will be easier and cheaper by that line than by the Chittagong line.

Goods cannot now be exported from Mymensingh because the Mymensingh line does not go far enough. But this difficulty will vanish with the construction of the proposed line. And thus the proposed line will also benefit the Mymensingh line.

21. The *Som Prakash*, of the 15th April, says that railway passengers travelling on the steamer line in continuation of the Magrahat State Railway have to suffer much inconvenience. There are only two

classes in the steamers, and passengers who take intermediate class tickets have therefore to sit with the khalasis, who do not behave respectfully to gentlemen. There is an English manager at Diamond Harbour, but as he is supplied by the khalasis with such things as he wants or likes, he does not take any notice of the compliants that are made against them. The writer once saw some khalasis purchase some articles at Gewankhali and take the same on board the steamer without paying luggage charge. On being asked whose things they were, they said that they were for their *Sahib*. On being further questioned, whether they would receive from him the prices of those articles, they said—"Why do you ask that question? We always think of going away, but cannot do so for the sake of our bellies." Nearly a month ago the writer and two other persons recorded a complaint against a serang in the Company's book. But it is said that the English manager read the complaint and laughed and the matter ended. During the ebb-tide the steamer cannot come close to the ghât at the Tumlook station, and remains at a distance of half a mile from the ghât. Under these circumstances, a boat ought to be kept for taking passengers over from the ghât to the steamer. But no such boat is kept and respectable passengers have therefore to go to the steamer in hired boats and low-class passengers have

SOM PRAKASH,
April 15th, 1889.

The Tumlook-Gewankhali steamer line.

to wade through the mud. And sometimes, when some passengers have waded all the way through the mud, the steamer starts without taking them up. There is also no fixed time for the starting of the steamer. If a station-house is constructed at Tumlook, and a boat is kept for taking passengers to the steamer, the income of the company from the Tumlook station will be doubled. The construction of two stations on two sides of Gewankhali has been begun, but is not yet completed. A boat is kept for taking passengers to the steamers. But this is not sufficient, and a jetty should be constructed there. Is this steamer line neglected, because Englishmen do not use it? Government should attend to these grievances.

(h)—General.

22. A correspondent of the *Cháruvártá*, of the 8th April, says that the oppression of the public at the Sub-

The Sub-Registry office at Iswar-gunge in Mymensingh.

CHARUVARTA,
April 8th, 1889.

Registry office at Iswargunge, in Mymensingh, has not yet ceased.

23. The *Sánti*, of the 10th April, can not accept as satisfactory Sir David Barbour's defence of the excise policy of Government. With the increase of Gov-

ernment revenue, the consumption of liquor has also increased. Formerly the duty on liquor was lower, and brewers could, therefore, offer pure liquor for sale; but the present high duty compels them to have recourse to adulteration, which is the reason why drunkards have to use more liquor than before in order to get intoxicated. And the consumption of a larger quantity of liquor more than neutralises the effect of the high duty imposed by Government upon that article. That is to say, brewers now make larger profits than before, and are thus able to pay a higher rate of duty. Government should, therefore, reduce the duty on liquor and frame such rules as will check drunkenness, making up any loss which may be caused in so doing by reducing wasteful expenditure.

24. The *Samvád Purnachandrodaya* of the 10th April, recommends

The new Judgeship in the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

SAMVAD
PURNACHANDRODAYA,
April 10th, 1889.

Baboo Jadu Nath Rai, the Subordinate-Judge of Sealdah, for the new Judgeship to be created

in the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Baboo Jadu Nath served with credit on a previous occasion as an officiating Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

25. The *Bhárat Mitra*, of the 11th April, complains of oppression by income-tax assessors in Calcutta. The

Income tax assessments in Calcutta.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 11th, 1889.

European merchants are assessed on the statements of income which they themselves furnish, but this is not done in the case of native traders or shop-keepers. The latter are invariably arbitrarily assessed.

26. The *Surabhi o Patáká* of the 11th April, says that the public are astonished at the re-appointment of Mr.

Mr. Beames.

Beames as a member of the Board of Revenue,

but the writer sees nothing to wonder at in this. Promotion and transfer to better places are the only punishments inflicted on higher grade civilians like Mr. Beames.

SURABHI O PATAKA,
April 11th, 1889.

27. The *Prajá Bandu*, of the 12th April, recommends that Baboo Jadunath Roy, Judge of the Sealdah Small Cause Court, who once officiated as a Judge

The new Judgeship in the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, should be appointed to the new Judgeship in that Court.

PRAJA BANDHU,
April 12th, 1889.

28. The same paper asks that when the income-tax has been made permanent, why should the income-tax office

The income-tax office.

be kept at its present wretched quarters in the

Custom House godown, where the poor clerks are exposed to the keen blasts

PRAJA BANDHU.

of winter and the heat and dust of summer. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will take pity on these clerks, and remove the office to a better place.

BANGABASI,
April 13th, 1889.

29. The *Bangabasi*, of the 13th April, does not understand why Mr. Beames has been re-appointed a member of the Board of Revenue. Is there not in the whole Civil Service another man competent

enough to be a member of the Board of Revenue? Why then has Mr. Beames, who was only the other day turned out of the Board, been re-admitted into that office? Politics may be a hard subject for the writer to understand, but he has no doubt about this that capriciousness like this on the part of the highest authorities cannot fail to shake the faith of the people in English rule and in the English character. It is by force of character that the English profess to rule India. Why then do they display such weakness of character?

SANJIVANI,
April 13th, 1889.

The Government of India on the coolie question.

20. The *Sanjivani*, of the 13th April, says that in his reply to the address presented to Lord Lansdowne on the 22nd December last by the Indian Association, in which allusion was made to the coolie

question, His Excellency said:—

“ Such an expression would, upon an occasion like the present, obviously be premature, and you would be the first to complain of me if, within ten days after my arrival here, I were to present to the public a completely developed scheme for the revision of your administrative system.”

But in his despatch to the Secretary of State on the coolie question, written only a month after, that is to say, on the 22nd January last, His Excellency has expressed himself emphatically on that important question:—

“ It will thus be seen that, so far as the working of the Act within Assam was concerned, we have had no grave reason for anticipating the time determined by Your Lordship for the submission of a special report on the working of the Act, and that there is now cause to believe that in the two most important points, the relations between employers and labourers, and the health of the garden coolies, conditions are, on the whole, satisfactory and improving. Although isolated cases of hardship have occurred, and the birth-rate among the coolie population has shown a downward tendency, yet the careful reports which have been submitted by the Chief Commissioner of Assam justify the conclusion that, in spite of certain defects, the working of Act I of 1882 in Assam is beneficial to immigrants after their arrival in that Province.”

His Excellency therefore stands self-condemned. But, rightly speaking, he is not to blame for this, for he has to depend a great deal on his Councillors and has to be guided by their advice in many cases. When Act I of 1882 was passed, Lord Ripon said that he had received the assurance of the Chief Commissioner of Assam that he would keep a strict eye that the Act would work well in his province, and that no oppression of coolies took place. The Chief Commissioner was no other than Sir Charles Elliott, now one of the members of the Viceregal Council. It seems, therefore, that Lord Lansdowne has had to depend much on the advice of Sir Charles in this important matter. But after the promise given by him to Lord Ripon, it must be Sir Charles' interest to make out that there has been no coolie oppression under Act I of 1882, and a coolie commission is unnecessary. In writing their despatch on the coolie question, Lord Lansdowne and his Councillors have also had to follow the advice of Mr. FitzPatrick, the present Chief Commissioner of Assam. But Mr. FitzPatrick's Assam experience extends only over one year, and it is difficult to understand how he can speak authoritatively on such an important subject. It is certain he has spoken as he has been made to speak by his subordinates. But a coolie commission would not only endanger the tea-planters, but would also bring disgrace on many Government

officials. And not to speak of other officers, Mr. FitzPatrick's own Private Secretary, Lieutenant Browne, would find himself in a very awkward position before a coolie commission on account of the disgraceful manner in which, as Assistant Commissioner of Sibsaugor, he conducted himself in the case of Khoda Uddin. Mr. FitzPatrick should therefore have accepted the views of his subordinates on the coolie question with great caution. The Chief Commissioner's statement that the health of the coolies has improved, and that coolies are not oppressed, is not borne out by evidence. It is true that, in 1885, the death-rate among coolies decreased to 36.8 per thousand. But Dr. Eteson, the Sanitary Commissioner for Assam, attributes this low rate to the satisfactory condition of the general health of the whole province, and not to any improvement in the sanitary condition of the tea-gardens. That Dr. Eteson's is the right view is proved by the figures of the following year, 1886, in which the death-rate rose to 39 per thousand. In 1887, the death-rate fell to 36.2 per thousand, and this, in the opinion of the Government of India, is sufficient warrant for the view expressed in the despatch that a commission to enquire into the health of the coolies is unnecessary. Government has not yet been able to refute the statement of the Civil Surgeon of Debrugarh that the high death-rate among the children of the coolies is due to want of proper care on the part of their parents.

Again, Government says that the relation between planters and coolies is very satisfactory. If this had been true, a prison house had not been found attached to every tea-garden. According to Lieutenant Gordon, Assistant Commissioner of Debrugarh, the "Phatakghar is a regular institution in the tea-gardens," and Lieutenant Gordon has been corroborated by Mr. Green-shield in the Dumduma tea-garden case in Debrugarh. The brutal and oppressive acts of Mr. Ending of the Messaijan tea-garden in Debrugarh are still fresh in the public mind. It will be remembered that both Mr. Robinson and Mr. Ending chased the poor coolies to the thana and attempted to force them to return to their work. These coolies, men and women, had left the garden because they were whipped on their buttocks. Mr. Robinson is a good hand at bringing back run-away coolies. It is he who shot at the run-away Rajput coolie, but Government has taken no notice of him. His employers have, however, dismissed him. A coolie commission would have made it clear that acts of oppression like these of Robinson and Ending are not of an uncommon nature. And it is, therefore, a pity that Government is standing in the way of the appointment of such a commission.

31. Referring to the appointment of Mr. Hill of the Allahabad Bar to a Judgeship in the Calcutta High Court, the same paper makes the following remarks :—

Was there no one, either in the Bar of the High Court or among the District Judges of Bengal, competent enough to sit as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court? Why was then Mr. Hill brought over from Allahabad? It would certainly have given the public great satisfaction if Mr. Beveridge, the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs district, had been appointed to the vacant Judgeship in the High Court.

32. The same paper urges some complaints in connection with the Jamalpore mela in Mymensingh. The first complaint is that the mela is still being treated as a Government institution, although high authorities have declared it to be a public affair. The present managing committee of the mela is the creation of the Magistrate and the Jamalpore public have no hand in the management of the mela which is entirely under official control. The second complaint relates to the expenditure of the mela fund, of which no account is given to the people of Jamalpore,

Mr. Hill as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

SANJIVANI,
April 18th, 1889.

SANJIVANI.

and which embraces very objectionable items, such as Rs. 300 for a dancing girl from Dacca. The third complaint is the entertainment in connection with the mela of a number of prostitutes who are behaving themselves most shamefully. Government is requested to cut off its connection with the mela, and place its management entirely in the hands of the local public.

DARUSSALTANAT,
April 14th, 1889.

33. The *Darussaltanat*, of the 14th April, says that Government's income is increasing every year, but it cannot nevertheless meet its expenses. Upper

Burma and the North-Western frontier defences are draining the resources of the Empire. When the people of India ask Government to do anything for their benefit, it invariably pleads pecuniary inability, but it wastes money readily enough in fruitless undertakings.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 14th, 1889.

34. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 14th April, contradicts the complaints about irregularities in the Munshigunge sub-registry office published in a previous issue of this paper (see paragraph 29 of the Weekly Report on Native Papers for week ending 6th April 1889).

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
April 15th, 1889.

35. The *Navavibhakar Sádháraní*, of the 15th April, referring to the rumour that the salary of the Chief Commissioner of Burma will be increased, asks where is the need of increasing the salary of the post so soon? Let Burma be first made to yield an income, and then it will be time to think of increasing the salary of its Chief Commissioner.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI.

36. The same paper says that Government has not done well in appointing Mr. Gordon to officiate for Justice Ramesh Chandra Mitra. Government has earned much praise by appointing three native Judges in the High Court, but does not act well in appointing an Englishman to officiate for any one of them. It would have been well if Babu Brajendra Kumar Seal had been appointed to officiate for Justice Ramesh Chandra Mitra. The writer thinks, however, that Babu Brajendra Kumar will yet be appointed to officiate for Justice Chandra Madhab Ghosh, who is suffering from illness, if it should be necessary for him to take leave.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 15th, 1889.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

37. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 15th April, says that capital punishment, in which death is instantaneous and least painful, has little or no terrors for the budmash,

Capital punishment.
who has been often heard to speak scoffingly about it. It is therefore a punishment not for the hardhearted murderer, but for his relatives, who have to mourn his loss as long as they live, and this is neither just nor fair. Capital punishment should therefore be abolished, and rigorous imprisonment for 25 years should be substituted for it. Twenty-five years of hard labour under the weight of heavy iron bars suspended from the hand, the leg and the neck will be felt as a punishment indeed, and will bring the culprit to a time of life when, the more violent passions being naturally subdued, the desire to commit crime will be dead or as good as dead. The Indian criminal law should be changed in this particular.

SAMAYA,
April 13th, 1889.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

38. The *Samaya*, of the 13th April, says that Sir T. Madhab Rao's proposal that some representatives of the

Representatives of Native States in
the Legislative Council.

people of the Native States should be taken into the Legislative Council is a good one.

This will increase their attachment to the British Government and promote sympathy between them and the British subjects.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

39. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th April, says that the last descendant of the Moghul Emperors is now earning his

The last descendant of the Moghul Emperors. He is the great grandson of Bahadur Shah, and is now very old. It will not be bad to allow him a pension for the few remaining days of his life.

SAHACHAR,
April 10th, 1889.

40. The *Samvad Purnachandrodaya*, of the 11th April, says that on Tuesday last, at a grand durbar held at Belvedere, the recipients of titles received their

The recent Durbar at Belvedere.

khiluts from the Lieutenant-Governor in the usual manner. It will be no exaggeration to say that the ceremony was most imposing and pleasing.

SAMVAD
PURNA CHANDRODAYA,
April 11th, 1889.

41. The *Samvad Prabhakar*, of the 11th April, says that on Tuesday last at 4-15 P.M. the Lieutenant-Governor

The Durbar at Belvedere.

held a grand durbar at Belvedere. So grand a durbar has not been seen for a long time. Invitations were, in the first instance, issued to all the respectable Europeans and natives of the town. But a few hundred tickets were subsequently issued at the request of and for the friends and relatives of those already invited. That more tickets were not issued is because the durbar hall is not a very spacious one. Nearly 400 respectable natives and Europeans were present in the durbar hall.

The Mahamahopadhyayas appeared in the durbar not in their usual dress but in a novel dress altogether. They had *joras* on and turbans on their heads; but whether they wore English boots in lieu of the ancient *chatti* is unfortunately not known. In his address to them the Lieutenant-Governor told many things, the purport of which will be given in another issue.

There was a garden party after the durbar, at which the Lieutenant-Governor delighted every person by conversing genially with all.

42. Referring to the Hon'ble Mr. Steel's statement in the Viceregal Council "that the sensational story that fifty

Mr. Steel and the Indian poor.

millions of people are insufficiently fed is absolute nonsense," the *Sanjivani*, of the 13th April, gives a cartoon representing the Hon'ble Member as reclining on an arm chair with a number of famished skeleton-like Indians—men, women, children, youths—before him, and delivers itself as follows:—

SANJIVANI,
April 13th, 1889.

"Mr. Steel, your heart is really made of steel! You live in a three-storied house and surfeit yourself on mutton and beef—how can you feel what the sufferings of the poor Indians are? It is India's misfortune that you are one of her legislators. You do not know what the Indians eat, or how they clothe themselves, and yet you are expected to speak for them in the Viceregal Council! Do you want to see the depth of misery to which the poor starved Indians have been reduced? Well, look at this picture. Look at the condition of these poor men, women and children! Look at their bodies, reduced to skeletons. Look at the emaciated mother and the starving child in her arms hardly able to cry out on account of exhaustion. Look at the young man who is unable to stand on his feet, and on whom starvation has brought the infirmities of age. And look at the old man, who has, without uttering a word, laid himself down on the bed of sickness from which he is destined never to rise! Have you never been out of Calcutta? And have you never left your three-storied house to visit even the poorer quarters of the town itself? And is that the reason why you ridicule the statement that 50 millions of Indians live on insufficient food? If you ever go to Behar, you will find numbers of poor people gathering handfuls of grain from the dirtiest of places and dividing that food, if food it can be called, among whole families. You will also see numbers of people living upon boiled

grass, seeds, and numbers allaying the pangs of hunger by eating boiled leaves of trees, and numbers reduced to skeletons for want of food! Such is the condition of the Indian poor, who eat food which is hated and shunned even by the beasts of the forest.

" Is your heart really made of steel! Is your heart made of iron!"

SAMJIVANI,
April 13th, 1889

43. The same paper draws the attention of the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the following case of coolie recruiting :—

A woman decoyed to Assam.

One Beni Das Baishnab, a coolie recruiter and an old acquaintance of Makhan, a maid servant in the employ of Kader Babu, the Postmaster of Assensole, one day came to Makhan and asked her to escort the wife of one Kangal Chakravarti from Hooghly. She agreed to do so at a daily remuneration of annas 4. Makhan took leave of her master and followed Beni to Ranigunge, where she was accommodated at the house of Jiban Das Baishnab. Five or six days after they were joined by Kangal Chakravarti, who seems to be the owner of the dépôt, and who sent Beni and Makhan to Hooghly. On reaching Naihati, Beni told Makhan that as Kangal Chakravarti's wife, who lived at Goalpara, had not yet come from that place, they must go to Goalpara to bring her down. Both Makhan and Beni accordingly left for Dhubri. On reaching Dhubri, a woman gave Makhan a blanket, a cloth, a *kurti*, a *thala* made of tin, and a tumbler, and told her that these would be required for her use. Beni then gave Makhan a paper, saying it was her steamer pass, and took leave of her on board the steamer on the plea of marketing. Not finding Beni in the steamer when it started, Makhan tried to jump into the river, and was prevented from doing so by the Doctor attached to the steamer, who also told her that she could not leave the steamer at Goalpara, as she had been booked as a coolie for the Dhanasiri tea-garden in Golaghat. She now for the first time came to know how she had been decoyed to Assam by Beni, and she cried piteously. The so-called *pass* given to her by Beni was an agreement with a stipulation to serve as a coolie for five years. The name of the coolie, given in the agreement, is Matu, of the Bagdi caste, and she is stated to be the daughter of Haridaya of Nadakhamer, a village in the Bankura district. On the 1st March last, Dr. S. Barab, the Civil Surgeon of Tejpur, came on board the steamer to inspect the coolies. On hearing Makhan's story, the doctor allowed her to land at that place, and the fraud played upon her was noted in the way-bill. A pleader of Tejpur, taking pity upon Makhan, has sent letters and telegrams to her employers at Barakar and Assensole. Makhan has also filed an application for the cancellation of the agreement in the Court of the Deputy Commissioner, who has written a letter to the Manager of the Dhanasiri tea-garden, calling upon him to show cause why the agreement should not be cancelled. Makhan's master, Debi Dass Chaudhuri of Radakar railway station, writes that she is a woman of the Teli caste, of good character, and has a brother at Radasuk, a village in the Ranigunge sub-division of the Burdwan district, and close to the Sitarampore station. The Chief Commissioner of Assam is requested to enquire who allowed the fraudulent agreement to be executed. Beni Das who has decoyed Makhan should be severely dealt with. Setting Makhan free will not alone please the writer. He wants to see the officer punished who registers these agreements without making inquiries.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
April 15th, 1889.

44. The *Navavibhakar Sádháraní*, of the 15th April, says that it will be very painful to Bengalis to part with a real friend like Mr. Reynolds. But they cannot at the same time ask so dear a friend to remain longer in this country, when he himself wishes to spend the last days of his life at home.

The writer prays that Mr. Reynolds may spend the remaining years of his life in peace and happiness.

45. The same paper says that means should be adopted by Government for checking the spread of leprosy. It should, for that purpose, establish leper asylums.

Leper asylums and make a law compelling lepers to remain there. These asylums should be situated at the extremities of towns and villages, and should be placed under the management of the municipality in the head-quarters of a district or of the District Board.

46. The same paper says that Sir Madhab Rao is an able and experienced statesman, and Prince Bismarck has thankfully accepted some suggestions of his

Sir Madhab Rao.

regarding the way in which the German Colonists in Africa should behave towards the Africans. It is much to be regretted that such a man should not obtain any employment under the English Government. Will the English Government wipe away this disgrace by taking Sir Madhab Rao into the Executive Council of the Governor-General ?

47. The *Som Prakash*, of the 15th April, says that the rulers of this country accuse the native papers of disloyalty. But there is no ground for such an

accusation. If free discussion of political matters constitutes disloyalty, Government can easily put down such disloyalty by issuing a rule in the Government Gazette prohibiting a free discussion of political topics. If Government really considers the native papers to be disloyal, it can also prove the charge and provide a remedy for the evil. But it is very improper for it to *false*ly accuse these papers of disloyalty. The native editors will do well to appeal to the Queen against such false charges against them.

48. A correspondent of the *Faridpur Hitaishini*, of the 16th April, complains of severe scarcity of water at Ram

Scarcity of water in the Furreedpore district.

Rai, Durgapore, Bajitpore, Chotul and other villages situated within the jurisdiction of

the Bhurrhana thana of the Furreedpore district. Repeated applications have been made to the District Board on this subject for the last three years, but to no purpose.

URIYA PAPERS.

49. Learning that the Jagannath Road Fund has been brought under the administration of the Balasore District

Dispensaries in the Balasore district.

Board, the *Uriya and Navasamvad*, of the

20th March, suggests that two dispensaries ought to be established at Soro and Jallesoro, with the aid of the Fund, with the object of minimising the distress of sick and way-worn pilgrims, of whom a large number pass through those two important stations of the Balasore district.

50. The *Utkal Dipika*, of the 23rd March, speaks approvingly of the recent orders of Government in connection with

Government and the coolie question.

the redress of coolie grievances, so far as they

are engendered by the misrepresentations or false representations of the coolie recruiters, who entice away coolies in the most objectionable manner. Mr. Nolan, the Secretary to Government, is also thanked for drawing attention to the unsatisfactory nature of the sanitary arrangements in many coolie depôts, as also to the oppression of coolies at Dhubri, where they are compelled to sign agreements against their will.

51. The same paper draws the attention of the authorities to the malpractices of coolie recruiters, who, taking

Coolie recruiters.

advantage of the prevailing scarcity in some of the northern districts of the Madras Presidency, enticed away as many as

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
April 15th, 1889.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHABANI.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 15th, 1889.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 16th, 1889.

URIYA AND NAVA-
SAMVAD,
March 20th, 1889.

UTKAL DIPAKA,
March 23rd, 1889.

UTKAL DIPAKA.

70 men and women from Khimdi under false promises, and were punished on their way to Assam at Cuttack by the Magistrate of that district, through the exertions of a benevolent native gentleman, who accidentally came in contact with them.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
March 7th, 1889.

SAMVAD BHAKTA,
March 28th, 1889.

UTKAL DIPAKA,
March 30th, 1889.

UTKAL DIPAKA.

UTKAL DIPAKA.

UTKAL DIPAKA.

52. The *Uriya and Navasamvad*, of the 27th March, complains of the sale of unwholesome food in Balasore. The unwholesome nature of certain eatables that are presented for sale in the markets of the

Balasore town, and draws the attention of the sanitary authorities to the subject.

53. The *Samvad Bâhikâ*, of the 28th March, deprecates in strong terms the Civil Surgeon of Balasore away from Balasore every year to Cuttack to take part in the examination of the pupils of the medical school in that town. In support of its argument, it quotes the case of Mr. Ricketts, who meeting with an accident in his way to Balasore from Nilgiri, lies in a precarious state in the former town, being attended to by a Native Doctor in the absence of the Civil Surgeon, who has left the station for Cuttack. As cholera and other serious diseases rage in the town several times in the year, the writer urges that the Civil Surgeon ought not to be taken out of the station for a large number of days.

54. The *Utkal Dipikâ*, of the 30th March, points out that when Sir Steuart Bayley was in Orissa a large number of gentlemen, interested in the manufacture of salt in that province, presented His Honour with a petition, applying for the restoration of the manufacture of *panga* salt. His Honour promised that he would take the matter into his consideration, as early as possible, but as yet no reply has been received. The writer urges that His Honour ought to take a favourable notice of the petition.

55. The same paper does not like the idea of appointing Mr. Beames Mr. Beames [in the] Board of Revenue, likely to fall vacant by the retirement of Mr. Reynolds, and prays that Sir Steuart Bayley will not incur unpopularity by promoting Mr. Beames.

56. The same paper points out that Mr. Ager, the Principal of the The Principal of the Rayenshaw Ravenshaw College, is oppressing some of the College. pupils of the college classes in various ways. As an instance of his oppression, it is stated that a scholar named Trailokyanath Dutt of the first year class, holding a Government scholarship, who has made tolerable progress, applied for transfer to a College in Calcutta, but the Principal not only did not grant him a transfer letter readily, but also stated in that letter that his character was bad.

57. The same paper has learnt that the pilgrims of Jagannath, who Pilgrim mortality in Pooree. attended the late *dole jatra*, were seriously inconvenienced by being unable to procure houses in the town to live in, and, as a consequence, there was great mortality among them. This was due to the refusal of the Civil Surgeon of Pooree to grant licenses to house-keepers, who, though entitled to obtain such licenses on payment of proper fees, did not receive them. The writer, therefore, requests the Commissioner to institute an enquiry into the causes which led the Civil Surgeon to adopt a measure which endangered so many lives.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 20th April 1889.

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